

Risë Rafferty- Sufficient Grace
Wednesday – June 3, 2026

- a unique, distinctive, profound ingredient of the Christian faith
- a word easily and frequently used in Christian conversation
- lesson leads us to see Grace as a quality of God's character.

Author of the SS lesson led us to Exodus 34:1–10.

Context- Ex 33 after the children of Israel have worshipped golden calf; Moses and God are having an incredible conversation. Moses' earnest request that no human has made before – Please, show me Your glory.

In response, God summons Moses to Mt Sinai to meet Him there a 2nd time to write His law, this time on 2 stones that Moses has been told to cut to replace the ones he broke. Early morning hikes back up and the Bible says that God descends in a cloud and stands with Moses- what a visual.

Proclaim His name – reveal who I AM. You want to see Me? describe Myself to you. The law is a transcript of God's character.

Before writing the law again God provides this context and says "I am the Lord God, I am Jehovah, the self-existent, all-powerful One, merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,"

John the disciple describes Jesus as "full of grace" Jn 1:14

If you met someone: kind to everyone, other-centered, easy to be with, accepting, cares deeply, always helping people in need, encouraging, generous & giving, doesn't talk meanly about others, when you make a mistake he's forgiving and eager to work things out, no hidden agendas, never impatient, irritated way, incredibly understanding, genuinely good, honest,

I have got to meet this person – can they become my friend? Can I have a boss, a coworker, a spouse, a parent, a teacher, a doctor, a lawyer, a neighbor, a business partner like that? The answer is Yes. Because we're talking about God who wants to be that for all of us.

Ex 34:7 -"keeping mercy for the masses, forgiving iniquity, transgression, sin, (covers it all- there's nothing hideous in your life that does not fall in those categories)

-“by no means clearing *the guilty (man’s addition)* – the original Hebrew helps us understand: by no means= naqah / clearing = naqah

“forgiving iniquity, transgression, sin, naqah naqah” = to be or to make clean, to be bare, extirpate – root out and destroy. Here in the context of iniquity, transgression, and sin God is a God who not only going to forgive but He is going to make it bare, let’s not have any hidden stuff/ secrets, root it out and destroy it, make us clean. He is accomplishing this through the power of grace.

34:8-Moses is in awe, so drawn and attracted that He responds, “O Lord, please go among us...

Go – walk Among – the nearest part
please walk with us – the nearest part even though we are a stiff-necked people, forgive us, take us as Your inheritance.

34:10 - God responds, “Behold, I make a covenant” – a relational commitment to you and this people. “I will do marvels before all the people that have not been done in all the earth, nor in any nation, and all the people among whom you are shall see the work of the Lord – It is an awesome thing that I will do with you.”

Is he talking to Moses here exclusively? to a group of people who have hurt Him, turned from Him, disobeyed Him, He says:

It is an awesome thing that I will do with you! – hear God saying that to you personally

So often when we think about having a relationship with God, coming to Him, becoming a Christian – I gotta clean up my act first: when I stop fooling around, when I stop smoking, when I start going back to church, when I ...that is not understanding grace.

Grace allows us to approach God with- “O, Lord, here I am again “ ‘Be merciful to me a sinner!’ ” (Luke 18:13)

This interaction with God is indelibly imprinted on Moses’ mind – sometime later– Nu 14:17 the spies have come back from searching out the Promised Land – and the people are in a pathetic hopeless rebellious state of mind – the giants, the chariots, let’s appoint a new leader and go back to Egypt!!

God had said He was going to do an awesome thing in them, but they reject. Because of their unbelief God can’t do for them what He wants to.

Caleb and Joshua are trying to rally them and inspire faith; but the crowd wants to stone them and then in the midst of the chaos, God shows up and says to Moses “How long will these people reject Me? How long will they not believe Me, I will strike them down and make of you a nation greater and mightier than they” – Moses responds - But the Egyptians will hear of it and they will think You’re weak. “Let the power of my Lord be great, just as You spoke, saying The Lord, long suffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression, naqah naqah
Where have we heard that before? Ex 34

v. 18 ... pardon the iniquity of this people according to the greatness of Your mercy just as you have forgiven them from Egypt even until now” – again and again and again.

I may not be able to explain what grace is very well with words, but I’ve experienced it in my life again and again and again. I have done such grievous things in my life that I could not make right, pay for, go back in time and erase it. I have felt the agony of realizing how profoundly my actions have affected others. I have received Grace from others, from God. It is the only antidote, remedy, cure- persistent enough, all inclusive of every iniquity, transgression and sin. naqah naqah- is central to this experience

God makes bare what He needs to be cleansed, to rooted out, exterminated. He wants to destroy what is destroying you.
Psalms 19:12,13 “Who can understand his errors? Naqah me from secret faults. Keep back your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless and naqah (innocent) of great transgression
Nahum 1:3 The Lord is slow to anger and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked – naqah naqah
Joel 3:21 – Judah shall abide forever...for I will naqah them of their guilt of bloodshed, naqah. For the Lord dwells in Zion.

I am so thankful that the Lord dwells in Zion and that He is full of grace: sufficient grace, generous grace, all-inclusive grace to cover , heal, mend, cleanse, root out all iniquity, transgression and sin.

Ro 5:20, 21- where sin abounds grace does much more abound- He will not stop being Himself- Who He is.